

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 /036 W

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R 201911Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5588

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E.O. 11652: F/A

TAGS: ETRD, BF

SUBJECT: BAHAMAS SEEKS SPECIAL TREATMENT ON CUSTOMS EXEMPTION
FOR U.S. TOURISTS

1. THE GCOB IS PREPARING AN OFFICIAL APPROACH TO THE EMBASSY
SEEKING SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR US TOURISTS RETURNING FROM VISITS
TO THE BAHAMAS, IN THE FORM OF AN INCREASE IN THE PRESENT \$100
CUSTOMS EXEMPTION. THE GCOB HAS AN INFLATED VIEW OF THE SHARE
OF THE LOCAL MARKET WHICH GOES TO IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. CERTAIN
MINISTERS APPARENTLY FEEL THAT THE US SHOULD BE WILLING TO GRANT
A QUID PRO QUO TO BALANCE THE PICTURE AND ASSIST THE TOURIST
SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY.

2. THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM CALLED
THE EMBASSY LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE IMPENDING APPROACH. HE
AGREED WITH THE ECONOFF THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE A "NON STARTER",
BUT SAID THAT HE WAS UNDER MINISTERIAL PRESSURE TO GO AHEAD.
ECONOFF EXPLAINED THAT US WOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GRANT
SPECIAL TREATMENT TO THE BAHAMAS AS IT WOULD OPEN THE FLOOD
GATES TO SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHER TOURIST ORIENTED COUNTRIES.
SUBSEQUENTLY AN OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CONTACTED THE EMBASSY ON THE SAME TOPIC. MEA OFFICIAL WILL
MEET WITH EMBOFF LATTER PART OF THIS WEEK.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE
THE DEPT WISHES TO OFFER TO ENABLE EMBASSY TO DEAL WITH
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THE APPROACH.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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